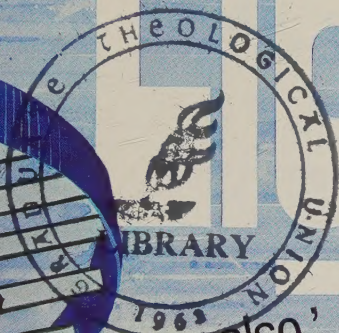


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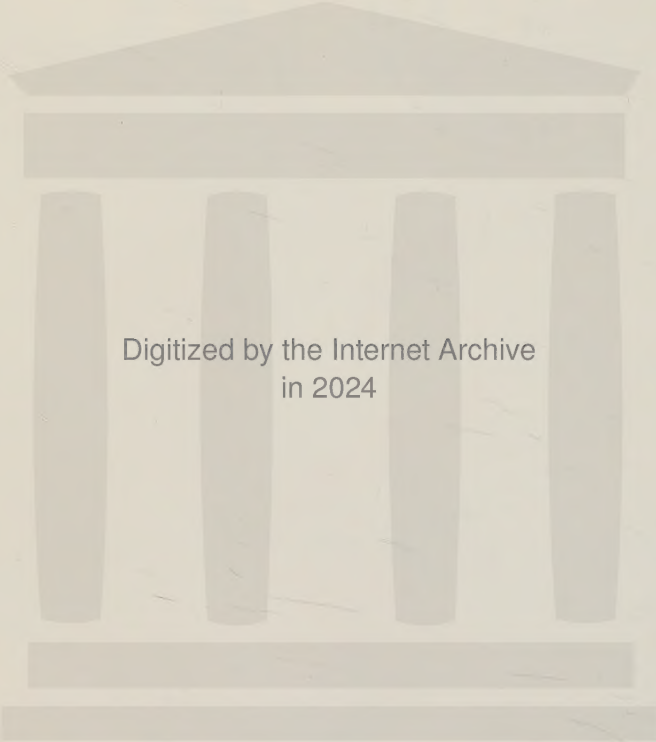


made the stars also...

# Light

## ON CREATION





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**LIGHT**

*on a*

*new*

*world*

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A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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SECRETARY TO THE EDITORIAL PANEL

AND

CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR

*David Evans, 57 Longmead Drive,  
Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4NT, England*

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# Without excuse

CHRISTIAN WORTHY of the name will doubt the existence of the God revealed in the Bible, because it is a fact fundamental to faith. The very basis of Christianity is founded on believing that God IS—that He exists—and that He *'is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him'*.<sup>1</sup> However, the world of today with its teeming millions is not exclusively a 'Christian' world. It is estimated that of the world population of approximately 4,000 millions, not more than about 20% lay claim to being 'Christian', and among these are many who are only nominally so. There is a growing number of the earth's inhabitants who do not believe in the God revealed in the Bible, and the greater part of the Communist world is openly ATHEISTIC—rejecting the concept of both God and religion.

The purpose of this Special Issue of LIGHT on a NEW WORLD, which is the 5th in a series of special issues, is to make an appeal to those who do not believe in God, and to those whose acceptance of a Creator is perhaps superficial and uncommitted. At the same time, it is our intention to provide material which will encourage and strengthen the faith of those who already believe in the God whose purpose is revealed in the Bible.

There is, of course, nothing new about NOT believing in God. Paul the Apostle, when writing to early Christians in Rome, was addressing not only Jews—who believed in God—but also Gentiles, who until their conversion to Christianity, may well have been pagan idolaters. His statement to the Roman believers that *'the just shall live by faith'*<sup>2</sup> was followed by a reminder that God will not for ever tolerate men and women who deny God's existence and who therefore act in a godless manner:

'The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without any excuse.'<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hebrews 11. 6    <sup>2</sup>Romans 1. 17    <sup>3</sup>Romans 1. 18-20 (N.I.V.)

WITHOUT EXCUSE

Yes, we see in the world and indeed in the whole universe, overwhelming evidence of wisdom and design. Modern inventions such as the telescope and microscope have helped to bring home to the thoughtful the stupendous wonder of creation—whether in the smallest forms of life, or the far-flung orbs of heaven. All proclaim design and purpose.

Yet none of the created things we see can tell us WHY. Why is the earth and mankind a living reality, and what future is there for this beautiful yet troubled world? The answer is our submission that only the BIBLE provides the answer to these questions—answer which starts with the record of the Creation of the earth and man, and which ends with a glorious view of God's NEW CREATION. Yes the God who declares

'I have made the earth and created man upon it; I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded . . .'<sup>4</sup>

also extends to His creatures the invitation

'Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else.'<sup>5</sup>

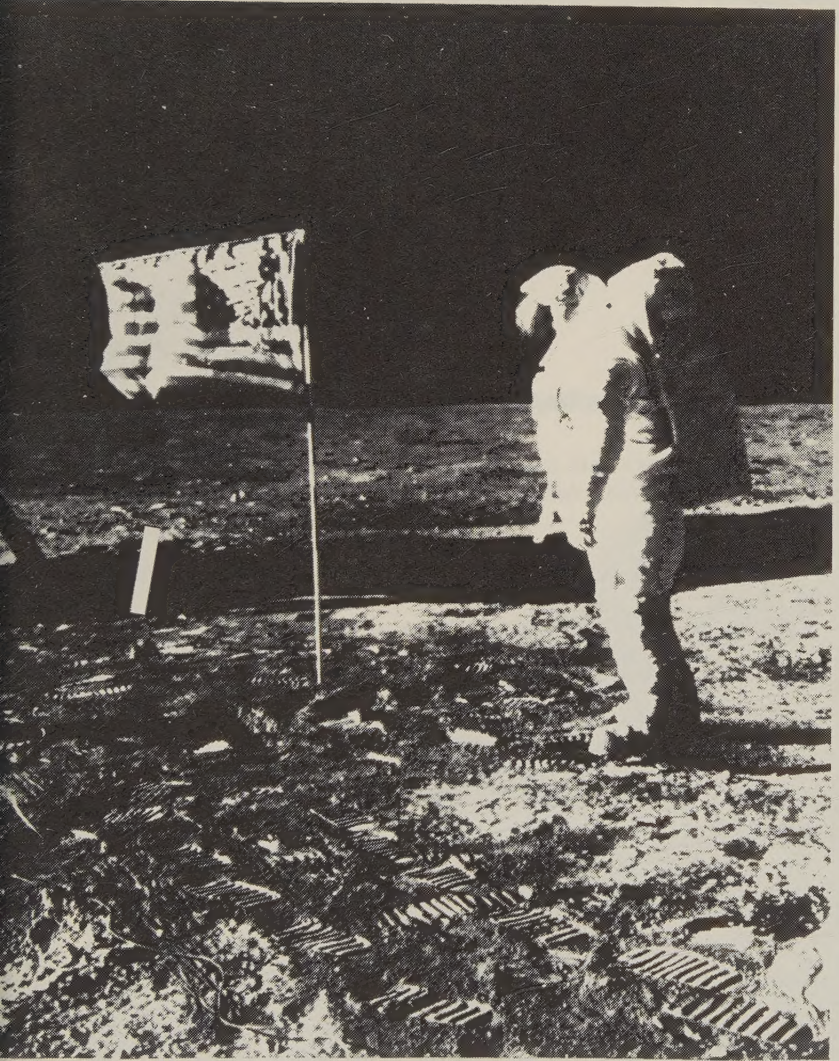
May it never be said of us or our readers, that they are

'WITHOUT EXCUSE'.

<sup>4</sup>Isaiah 45. 12

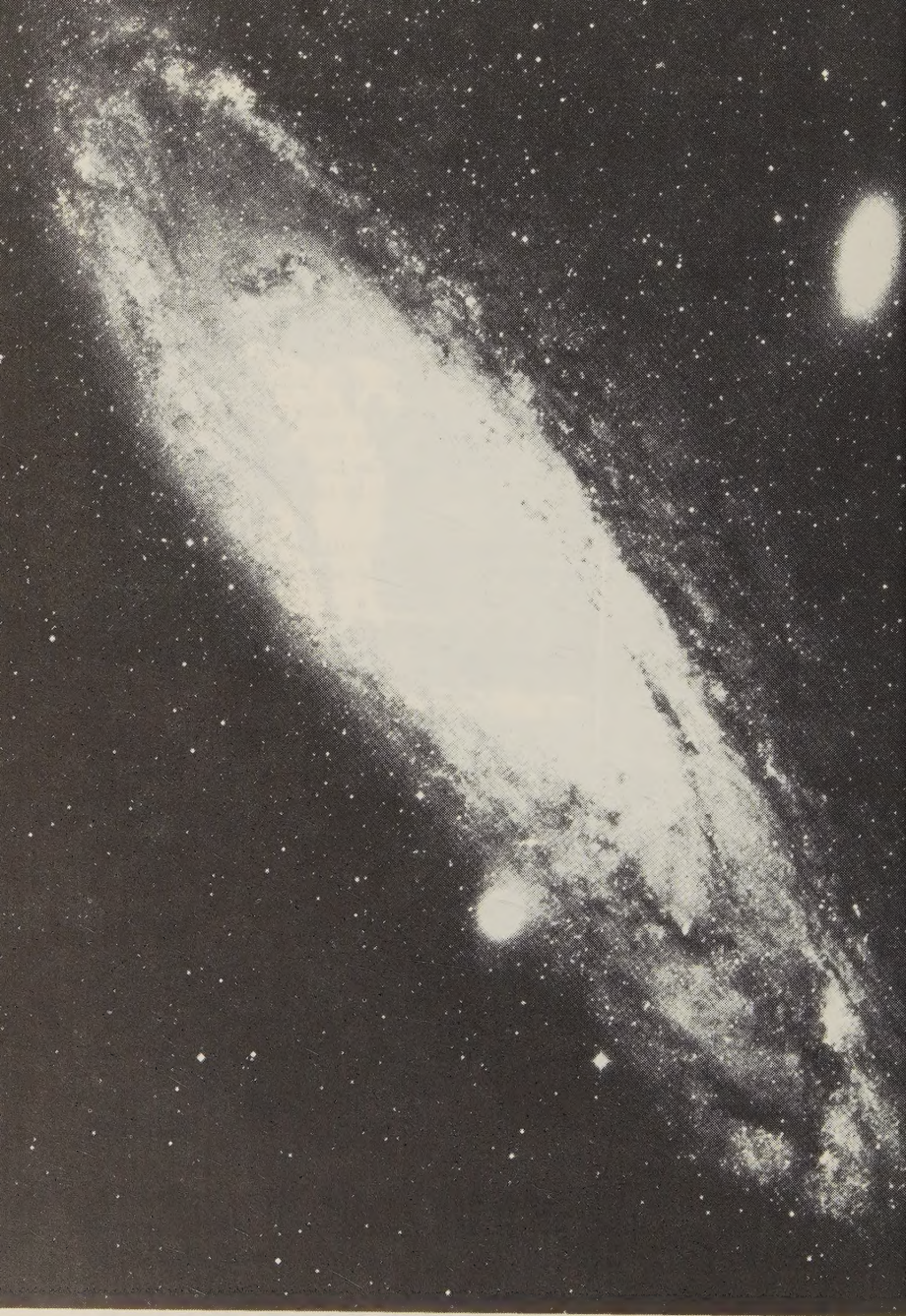
<sup>5</sup>Isaiah 45. 22





man stands on the moon. Only the precision of the movements of the earth and the moon enabled the tremendous feats of lunar exploration to take place at all. Some of man's efforts have not been successful. The sun and the planets are always in the right place.







# God in creation

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THERE IS NO doubt that the Bible claims that everything in heaven and earth was created by an all-powerful and supremely wise being called God:

‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth’.<sup>1</sup>

‘The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heaven’.<sup>2</sup>

‘God which made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein’.<sup>3</sup>

But today many people ask the question: ‘Are such claims, made over two thousand years ago, to be taken seriously in view of the immense increase in knowledge and understanding of nature and the universe that man has gained in recent years?’ In this section we will review some of the discoveries scientists have made, and you will be able to judge whether these things have made God more unnecessary and irrelevant, or whether it becomes more necessary to believe in the existence of an intelligent designer controller. Does belief match up to scientific discovery?

## DISCOVERING THE UNIVERSE

Dotted around the world, usually on the summit of high mountains so as to be free from the pollution and distortion of the earth’s atmosphere, are Astrophysical

*The great galaxy M31 in the constellation Andromeda is similar to our Milky Way in appearance. It has spiral arms swirling out of a bright, densely packed nucleus. The two glowing discs on either side are smaller satellite galaxies.*

Genesis 1. 1    <sup>2</sup>Proverbs 3. 19    <sup>3</sup>Acts 14. 15

Observatories. These very specialised buildings contain huge telescopes that peer into space with such magnification that they could spot a small coin on the moon, measure the thickness of a hair fifty miles away. Special cameras take pictures, and instruments record and analyse the light coming from the heavenly bodies. Where light cannot penetrate the vast areas of interstellar dust a special infra-red telescope—sensitive that it can detect the heat of a candle flame miles away—pin points the presence of unseen bodies in space.

The Universe also abounds in radio waves emitted from distant stars which reach and penetrate our atmosphere and can be picked up by the massive bowls of radio telescopes such as at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire. To avoid the problems caused by weather and atmosphere there are even flying observatories packed with computer-driven instruments that record the heavens from the comparatively dry and clear atmosphere eight miles above the earth.

### THE UNIVERSE HAS A STRUCTURE

The result of all these investigations has convinced astronomers that firstly the universe is of inconceivably immense size, and secondly that the heavenly bodies are not spread out uniformly in space, but are in a series of groups.

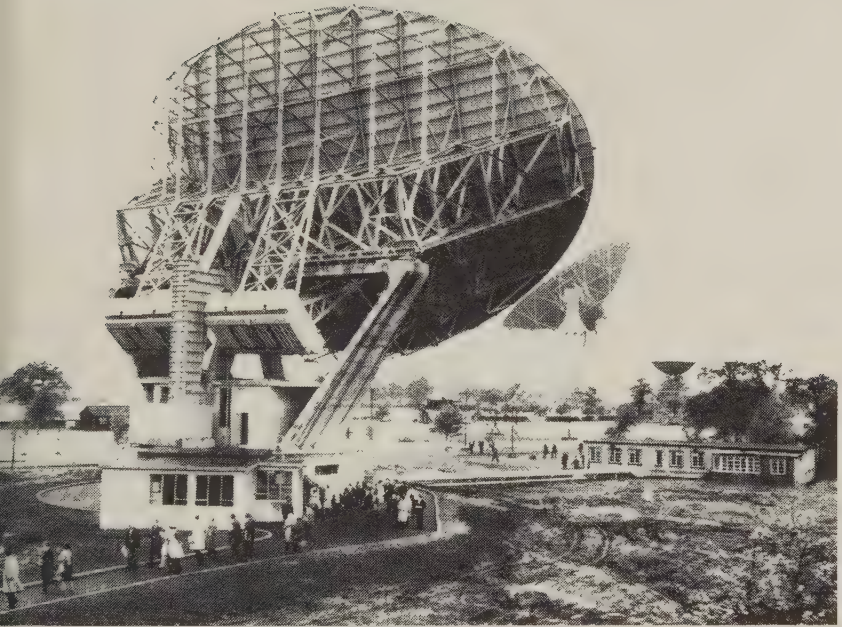
The basic unit is the star, of which our Sun is an average specimen. The Sun has planets, Earth and other planets in orbit around it, but it is not known if other stars have satellites too. The stars we can see on a clear night are only the Sun's immediate neighbours in space. The nearest star is 25 trillion miles away, and light, travelling at 186,000 miles per second, takes about 4.3 years to reach us. To help you better envisage this distance, if the distance from the earth to the sun—93 million miles—is represented by one inch, then the nearest star would be four miles away.

But this distance is small in astronomical terms. On a dark clear night the Milky Way can be seen as a bright hazy band across the sky. With a telescope the Milky Way can be seen as millions upon millions of stars, each like our Sun. This cluster of stars is called a galaxy, and is a mass of stars in a shape like a flat disc about 100,000 light years in diameter. Our Sun with its solar system, and the comparatively few stars we can see with the naked eye, are situated towards the edge of this galactic disc.

At one time our galaxy was thought to be the entire Universe, but it is now known to be but an infinitely small part of it. There are millions of other galaxies, organised into *groups*. In what is prosaically called our "local group" are about 20 galaxies, but this is a comparatively small group. About 50 million light years away is a group that contains thousands of individual galaxies.

Your mind may be reeling at the magnitude of all this—but we have not





*the great elliptical disc of the Mark II Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope in Cheshire, England. The earlier 250ft. diameter telescope (built 1957) can be seen in the background.*

described the Universe. These *groups* of galaxies are themselves aggregated into *superclusters* of about 150 million light years across. And a large number of these *superclusters*, separated from each other by immense distances, form the observable *universe*.

This then is the modern concept of the Universe. We could summarise our relationship to it as follows:

the UNIVERSE	contains
many SUPERCLUSTERS	each of which contains
many GROUPS	each of which contains
many GALAXIES	each of which contains
billions of STARS	one of which is our
SUN	which has a planet called
	EARTH

## THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE

One of the discoveries about the Universe is that all the clusters of galaxies appear to be moving away from some central point, like the debris from an explosion. This has given rise to the 'big bang' theory of the origin of the Universe, and in recent years physicists have been determining a possible sequence of events. Originally, they suggest, matter did not exist: there was only an atom-sized nucleus of pure energy. For some unknown reason this pent up energy nucleus rapidly began to expand. The result of this expansion was to convert energy into matter. First came very small sub-atomic particles, then simple atoms such as hydrogen and helium. With further expansion more and more complex atoms were formed, gradually producing the array of chemical elements present today. These newly formed substances condensed into galaxies and into individual stars, but their momentum was maintained and they are still all racing away from that original point of expansion.

## NOT COMPLETELY RANDOM

This obviously abbreviated account of the theory of the origin of the Universe may give the impression that its creation was the inevitable consequence of a purely random chain of events. But this is not so. If the Universe did develop in this way then there had to be very fine control of the original 'explosion'. If the newly created Universe was too dense, gravitational forces would have made it collapse back into itself. If the matter was too diffuse it would not have condensed into galaxies and stars. The rate of expansion had to be *just right*. As one physicist put it: 'To get a Universe that has expanded as long as ours has without either collapsing or having its matter coast away would have required extraordinary fine-tuning'.<sup>4</sup> This same scientist calculated that the odds of achieving that kind of precise expansion would be the same as throwing a microscopic dart across the Universe and hitting a bulls-eye one millimeter in diameter.

So the first thing that astronomy tells us is that although all the components and mechanisms for the formation of the Universe can possibly be explained by science, its origin was not just an accident. First the original 'big bang' had to be triggered. And in the fantastically violent creation event that followed there had to be *precise control* if the Universe was to survive.

How was it controlled? Who threw that metaphorical dart and hit the bulls-eye against all the odds? Is the divine claim through Isaiah that outdated after all?:

'I have made the earth and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have *stretched out* the heavens, and all their host have I commanded'.<sup>5</sup>

## THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE

With a Universe so vast, it seems almost presumptuous that puny man should enquire its purpose. Yet on a purely scientific level—and there are obviously other

<sup>4</sup>*National Geographic Magazine*, Vol. 163, No. 6, p.741    <sup>5</sup>Isaiah 45. 12





Cluster of galaxies in the constellation Hydon. Photographed from the Sidney Spring telescope in Australia. Galaxies of all types are shown together and those furthest away are estimated by astronomers to be at a distance of 10,000 light years.

possible levels of understanding—it seems that the original expansion and the densities of space were *necessary requirements* for the production of the elements needed for life.

‘Some scientists are arguing seriously that this forbiddingly large and existential Universe was absolutely necessary for life to evolve. The elements of life had to be cooked up in stars . . . The Universe had to be rapidly expanding all that time. The Universe *has* to be large for life to have evolved’.<sup>6</sup>

As you will gather from the whole of this issue of **LIGHT**, the authors would not see that life has evolved but was created, but that aside for the moment, the point is that scientific discoveries now not only indicate some control in the formation of the

*National Geographic Magazine, Ibid. p. 745*

Universe, but that the end product of this process was the production of the materials for living things.

Nearly three thousand years ago the Bible expressed the same idea: the earth was created as a receptacle of life.

'Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it; he created it not in vain; he *formed it to be inhabited*'.<sup>7</sup>

So as we end this brief review of the current scientific thinking on the Universe we can confidently say that these discussions do not rule out the existence of an all-wise and powerful Creator. Indeed they almost demand His existence.

### LIFE ON EARTH

When the astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin were in the stark and desolate landscape on the Moon they were able to see the Earth as it had never been seen before. Just as we on Earth can look up at the Moon, so they were able to see the Earth rise over the barren lunar surface. From this distance there is nothing to indicate that the Earth was any different from the lifeless Moon with its craters and plains, or from any other planet of the solar system.

But those astronauts knew differently. They knew that beneath those reflecting clouds and alongside the shimmering oceans was a different world: one as full of beauty as the others are empty and sterile.

Yes, as far as is known, the planet Earth is unique. It is easy to forget that. There is no actual evidence that there is another place like Earth.

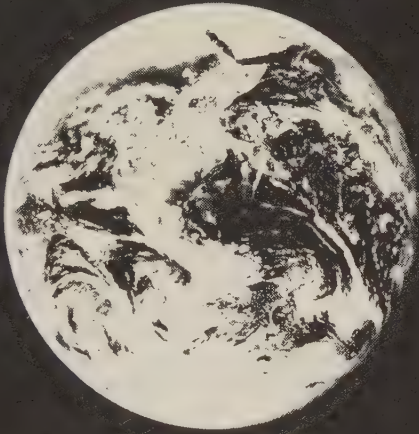
What is it that makes Earth so different? Is it the mountains and valleys, its rocks and its minerals? No. Other planets have these. The supreme difference is that the Earth contains *life*. Wherever we look there are living things of amazing diversity and complexity: trees, plants, animals, birds and insects. And chief among these living things is Man himself, with his unique ability to reason.

We might well ask, 'What is the difference between the Earth and the other planets that enables this phenomenon of life to occur?' And are such differences accidental?

In answer we must note the conditions necessary for life to exist. The Universe as a whole is a dangerous place. Vast spaces, intense and powerful radiations, extremes of temperature from a little above absolute zero (-273 degrees C) to millions of degrees

<sup>7</sup>Isaiah 45. 18





*The earth photographed from space during Apollo 17 mission.*  
(National Astronaut and Space Administration, Washington D.C., U.S.A.)

ve, combine to make the Universe in general inhospitable to life. Living things are y delicate, and even small variations from certain conditions mean death. Here are ne of the criteria that have to be met for life to exist.

#### TEMPERATURE RANGE

The range at which living things can function is small on a universal scale. All living processes stop around  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  when water freezes, and continue to around  $45^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Some forms of micro-organisms can grow at higher temperatures and others survive, but not grow, in boiling water, but even so the temperature range for growth is comparatively small.

#### WATER

All living processes take place in water. Our bodies are 70% water, and many forms of life live in water. Without liquid water no life is possible.

#### ENERGY SOURCE

Living things stay alive by extracting energy from chemical reactions. In most cases this is by breaking down a food. The energy in food originally comes from the Sun. Plants capture the energy by means of a very special substance, and use the energy to make foodstuff that animals can eat, thus extracting the Sun's energy second hand. Light is therefore essential to all the higher forms of life.

## LIGHT ON A NEW WORLD

### ATMOSPHERE

Most living things require oxygen in order for them to extract the energy contained in food.

### CORRECT FORCE OF GRAVITY AND ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

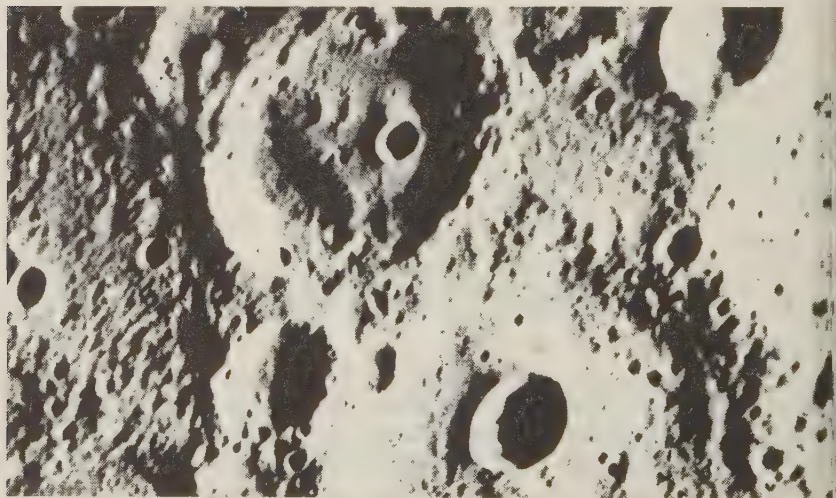
The astronauts on the Moon could jump higher and farther than on Earth because the Moon's gravitational pull is less. Conversely on a large planet gravity would crush them into the ground. On Earth the atmospheric pressure is about 15 pounds per square inch. If it was a lot more than this living things would be squeezed to death.

### FREEDOM FROM RADIATIONS

Space is full of rays that are lethal to living things: gamma rays, x-rays, ultraviolet rays and cosmic rays have sufficient energy to break up complex chemicals. Spacemen have to wear specially designed suits to protect them from these radiations when they venture from their spacecraft.

### ONLY EARTH SUITABLE FOR LIFE

Of all the planets, only the Earth has all these things life needs. It is the correct distance from the Sun to give it the right temperature range. It has plenty of water in liquid form. It has an atmosphere containing oxygen, and whilst allowing light through is thick enough to prevent the dangerous rays in space reaching the Earth's surface. The atmospheric pressure is not excessive, and the Earth is of a size that exercises a force of gravity that is compatible with living things.



*The surface of Mercury as seen from NASA's Mariner 10.*



A quick review of some of the other planets shows how unsuitable they are to sustain life:

MERCURY	Moon-like surface. No water. Very hot. No atmosphere.
VENUS	Moon-like surface. Extremely hot, 500°C. Atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulphuric acid vapour. An atmospheric pressure of 100 times that of Earth.
MARS	Dry rocky surface. No water—the 'ice caps' are solid carbon dioxide. Negligible atmosphere. Temperature generally very cold.
JUPITER	Not a solid planet at all. It consists of liquid hydrogen at a temperature of -270° C. Bathed in clouds of ammonia hundreds of miles thick.

### LIFE IS THE EXCEPTION

Thus it can be seen that certainly in the solar system, possibly in the Universe, the Earth is unique, and life the exception. Why?

Advocates of the theory of Evolution believe that because the Earth, by chance, had the suitable conditions, life spontaneously developed and then diversified. That is, they say that life was an almost expected result of those fortuitous and accidental conditions.

Others, the authors of this booklet included, believe that the whole system is part of a plan, and in the development of the Universe and the suitability of the Earth they see the guiding hand of a Creator who wanted intelligent life and so created first the materials and then the environment to achieve it.

### WHAT IS LIFE?

The transition from non-living chemicals to living things is not a gradual one. Even the simplest form of life contains very specialised chemicals that are never found free in nature.

This is because living matter is invariably found inside a microscopic box called a cell. Some forms of life exist as a single cell, but the more familiar ones such as plants and animals are made up of vast numbers of cells joined together. When people rather vaguely talk of life spontaneously appearing, they are taking a huge intellectual jump that is very little to justify it. As you read on you will see what we mean.

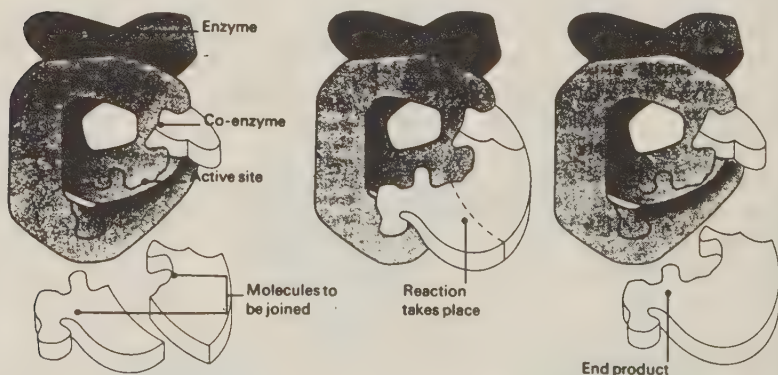
## THE COMPLEXITY OF A LIVING CELL

A living cell is basically a miniature manufacturing unit, complete with its own power supply. Its products are various complex chemicals needed for it to live, grow and reproduce.

One of the most important class of these chemicals are proteins called *enzyme*. You know that in a human manufacturing process a device called a jig is often used to hold components in the right place whilst they are being joined together. An enzyme is a microscopic jig that holds two or more chemicals together whilst they react and are welded into one—or sometimes split in two. Obviously such a 'jig' has to be just the right shape so that it can hold the chemicals in the correct relationship. The chemicals are of all shapes and sizes, so this means that there has to be a *completely different* enzyme for each chemical reaction within the cell. Even the simplest cell could not function with less than about 150 different enzymes.

## ENZYME STRUCTURE

Below is a model of an enzyme holding its pair of reacting chemicals. You can see that it is a long chain bent and twisted into the desired shape. How does it get bent in the right places so that it fits 'its' chemicals?



### Diagram of Enzyme Action

*Every enzyme is of a different shape and the molecules that they are instrumental in joining fit exactly to them. Sometimes, however, the enzyme shape has to be modified by the presence of a special molecule known as a co-enzyme.*



*Micrograph of living cells from the lining of the cheek. The granular nucleus which controls the complicated activities of the cell can be clearly seen.*

If you placed a row of square bricks end to end they would obviously form a straight line. If you introduced into the row one with a triangular cross section, a bend in the row would be obtained. An enzyme molecule is constructed on this principle, using chemicals called amino acids as 'bricks'. There are about 20 different amino acids, and they in effect are all different 'shapes'. By careful selection of the various amino acids (and there are usually many hundreds in the enzyme chain) the molecule can be bent into the requisite three-dimensional shape.

Obviously, therefore, to produce a given enzyme there is *only one* correct sequence of amino acids. The insertion of just a single wrong one could produce a bend in the wrong place, with the result that the enzyme would be unable to hold its particular chemicals, and would thus be useless.

So the cell in some way has to remember the correct sequence of amino acids in every one of the hundreds of different enzymes it needs so that it can make them when required. How does the tiny cell do this?



## THE MAGIC CODE

In the centre of each cell is a separate enclosure, the nucleus. Within this nucleus is a truly amazing substance, commonly known as DNA. Think of a ladder with its two side rails joined by the rungs. Then imagine that some giant twisted the ladder along its length, until the side rails looked like two huge corkscrews cross-connected by the rungs. Reduce this in size to a minute fraction of an inch and you have in essence the structure of a DNA molecule. The diagrams on the opposite page show the idea: a simple diagram showing the twisted ladder arrangement, and the more complicated diagram showing the actual structure of just a short length of DNA. A complete DNA molecule would be very much longer, having many thousands of twists in its spiral rather than the few you see here.

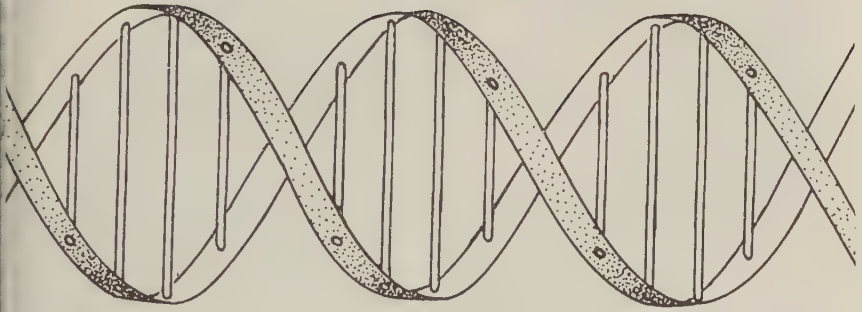
The wonderful thing about DNA is that along its length it contains all the instructions for making all the different types of enzymes the cell needs. As the enzymes are responsible for making the reactions in the cell work, you can see that DNA therefore controls the whole cell.

The information about the correct sequence of amino acids in each enzyme is contained in coded form on the 'rungs' of the DNA ladder. There are only four different kinds of 'rungs', and it needs three rungs to code for *one* amino acid. So if we call the four types of rungs A B C D, then ABC might be the code for amino acid 1, BCD for amino acid 2, BCB for amino acid 3, DBA for amino acid 4, and so on until all the amino acids are coded, using only the four 'rungs'. So, in our example, if the sequence of rungs on the DNA molecule was BCDBCBA B C D B A it would mean that the sequence of amino acids would be 2,3,1,4. In this way a ladder of 600 rungs could code for an enzyme of 200 amino acids in its chain, and if the sequence on the DNA was correct then every enzyme produced from that section of its length would have its amino acids in the right order too, and would therefore be able to do their job.

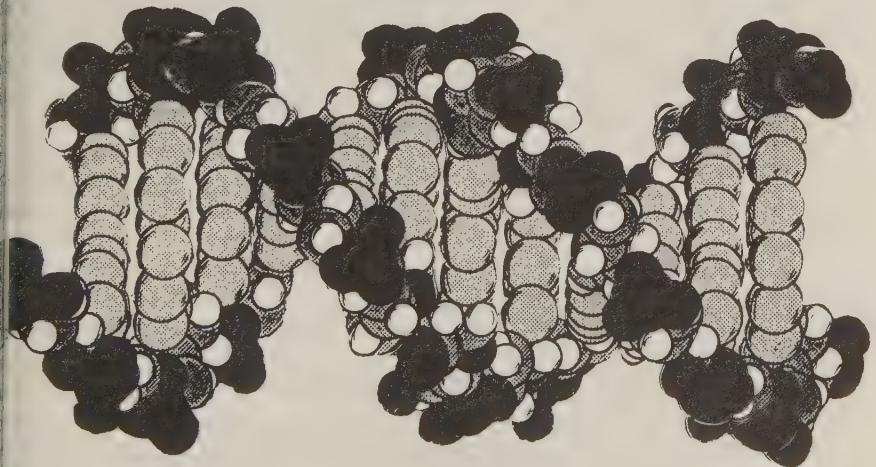
This explanation of course is only of the principle of the code's operation. In practice, the transfer of the coded information to the site of enzyme production is very complicated, and involves other very special substances.

## CELL DIVISION

One of the definitions of living material is that it can reproduce itself. This must obviously occur first at the cellular level. For one cell to become two, the DNA must first be accurately duplicated, so that each new cell can contain the vital instructions coded on that molecule. This replication of DNA is achieved by enzymes made by itself. If you think about this you will realise that DNA and its enzymes are interdependent: the DNA makes an enzyme that in turn makes the DNA. So both must have originally appeared together. Either cannot function on its own.



**DOUBLE HELIX**—the model of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), below, suggested in 1953 by James Watson and F. H. Crick is made up of two strands held together by cross-ties that spell out a genetic message which is unique for each organism.



### DESIGN OR CHANCE?

Do you think that this complex yet accurate method of protein production could have occurred by chance? Can a code be produced by accident? No, it can only be the product of an intelligent mind.

The Code of Life was designed by God, and by His giving a slightly different code to the different sorts of living organisms, He brought into being all the varied forms of life, such as trees, flowers, animals, insects, and mankind. As the Bible says:

‘With thee is the fountain of life’<sup>8</sup>

‘He giveth to all life and breath and all things’.<sup>9</sup>

### ‘THERE MUST BE A GOD’

This headline stunned the readers of the *Daily Express* in August 1981. Two non-believing scientists, Professors Hoyle and Wickramasinghe, after calculating the possibility of a chance origin of life, found that the odds against life appearing by accident were so immense as to be impossible. The odds were 1 to  $10^{40000}$ —that is with 40,000 noughts after it. Expressed in another way, they said that for life to have been a chemical accident is like looking for one particular grain of sand on all the beaches on Earth—and finding it. With great reluctance, for one was an agnostic and the other an atheist, these two scientists had to admit that the only reasonable explanation for life was the existence of a Creator.

But of course life on Earth is not just simple cells. They are organised into groups to form organs and bodies that can see, feel, manipulate things, and in the case of man reason and communicate. In all this there is the evidence of design, not accidental development.

### DESIGN DEMANDS A DESIGNER

Wherever we look, then—at the Universe or inside the cell—we see that things have turned out the way they are as a result of a series of apparently improbable events. Each event was very unlikely to have occurred by chance. The Universe expanded at just the right rate. The Earth provided just the right environment. Then life with all its amazing complexity appeared on Earth. An *accidental* sequence of such events strains the bounds of credibility. Reason demands that such careful and intricate design implies the existence of a designer and a controller—a being greater than the Universe.

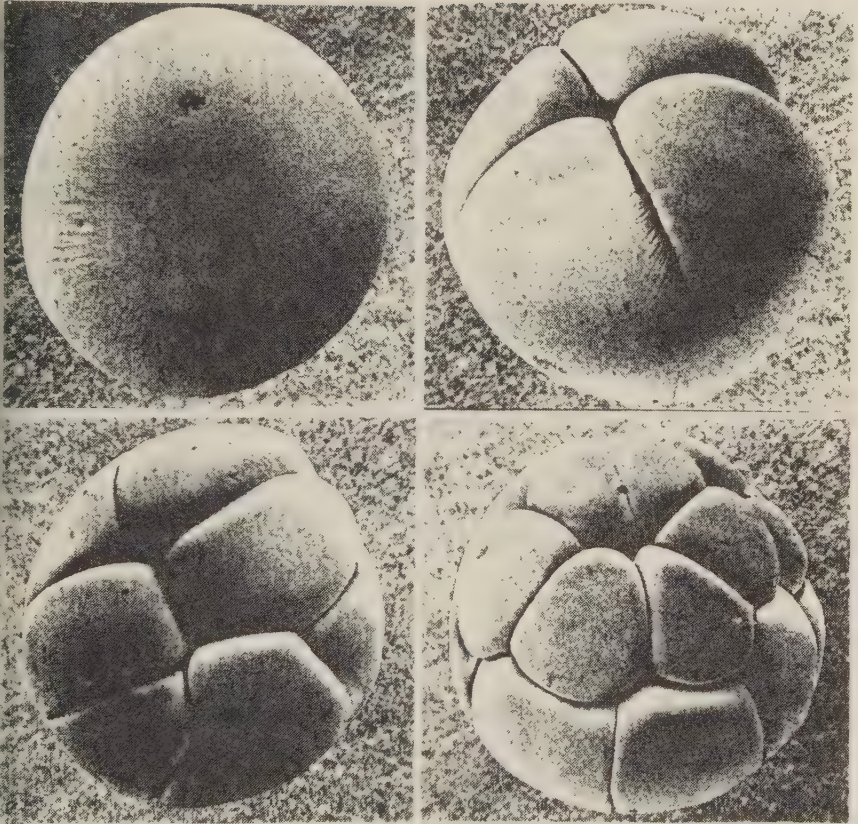
The God of the Bible is described in just these terms:

‘Praise ye the Lord. Praise him ye sun and moon. Praise him all ye stars of light. Praise him ye heaven of heavens . . . Let them praise the Name of the Lord: for he commanded and they were created.’<sup>10</sup>

‘Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm; and there is nothing too hard for thee’.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Psalm 36. 9 <sup>9</sup>Acts 17. 25 <sup>10</sup>Psalm 148. 3-5 <sup>11</sup>Jeremiah 32. 17





*The single cell of a frog's egg shown dividing by the electron microscope.*  
(photo—Dr. L. M. Beidler, Science Photo Library)

### THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE

In this article we have presented the current views about life and the Universe. Some are only theories, suggesting what might have happened at the beginning. It may be that tomorrow some new discovery will alter these ideas on the origin of the Universe. But, with this proviso that all human knowledge is inevitably imperfect, the correspondence of modern scientific discoveries and the Bible is remarkable. This is all the more so when we consider the antiquity of the book. If the Bible was merely the product of its age, it would have described the Creation in the self-evidently mythical way of, for example, the Babylonian and Egyptian creation stories of 3500 years ago.

Against the background of these obviously nonsensical accounts, the writing of a record of creation that is reasonable, logical and even scientific needs a lot of explaining if God is not taken as the originator of the information.

### A PURPOSE IN CREATION

The supreme value of belief in a Creator is that everything has been made for a reason. Science may probe the distant parts of the Universe or the innermost intricacies of the living cell, but it cannot tell *why* they are there. But if an all-wise God has created everything it is reasonable to assume a purpose in creation. And we can learn of that purpose in the Bible, which is the Creator's revelation to man. We are told there that mankind, far from being a chance evolutionary development, was created specifically to bring pleasure and satisfaction to the Almighty. It may seem at first sight that that purpose is failing, but this is only from a human standpoint.

Scripture tells us that God is using the literal world to develop a *spiritual* creation composed of men and women who have developed a mind and a way of life that reflect the attributes of their Creator. This spiritual creation will at last share the nature and the understanding of the great being who has created them. This was the hope of the Apostle Paul:

'Now we see through a glass darkly . . . but then shall I know even as also I am known'.<sup>12</sup>

and also the promise of God through His son Jesus Christ:

'He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son'.<sup>13</sup>

Mankind has been created 'in the image of God'<sup>13</sup> and the highest use to which we can put our God-given minds and bodies is not to attempt to fathom the innermost secrets of nature, or to live a life in pursuit of present satisfaction or happiness, but to spend our short years in preparation for that future.

<sup>12</sup>I Corinthians 13. 12    <sup>13</sup>Revelation 21.7

# In the image of God

THE OPENING CHAPTER of Genesis records the creation, in logical sequence, of the plant and animal life to be found upon the earth—first plants and trees, then fish and fowl, followed by insects and animals and finally, the culminating work of creation, man himself; verse 26 reads:

‘And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.’<sup>1</sup>

From this passage we see that God has given man control over all other creatures, and has made him *in God’s image*. Does this mean that God looks like us? Does it mean we can do what we like with the world? Are we free to wipe out species like whales or pollute the oceans or even to destroy the world itself? Man has always assumed he is free to do as he pleases. He has always assumed that he has the right to decide his own destiny. However, as we shall see, God has His own plan and purpose with mankind. The tendency of man to have an exalted idea of his own importance and an arrogant unwillingness to accept his limitations, or even the existence of God, has been the cause of much trouble. So let us explore this concept of the *image of God*. Can we learn from this something about the Creator, even if we look at the image only through a mirror and see things imperfectly?

The word ‘image’ is used in several places in the Bible. In Daniel’s record of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar<sup>2</sup> we are told that he saw a great image like a man and that the image had characteristics which corresponded to those of the succeeding empires of the world. We see here an ‘image’ which is representative rather than identical. We find the same word ‘image’ used in Genesis with reference to the son of Adam: ‘*and (Adam) begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth*’.<sup>3</sup>

The similarity of sons to fathers is as much one of characteristics as of physical likeness. What characteristics do we see in man that make him different from the rest of creation?  
*Genesis 1. 26, 27    <sup>2</sup>Daniel 2. 31    <sup>3</sup>Genesis 5. 3*



creation? Two of the most obvious are his superior ability to *communicate* and *create*. Both these characteristics are seen to perfection in God. We see God's creativity all around us and marvel at it. In the Bible we see how He has communicated with man, and that too is to be marvelled at. Let us consider these two aspects in more detail.

### MAN THE COMMUNICATOR

It is evident that communication is not the sole prerogative of humans. We see the ability of shepherds to communicate with their dogs, who recognise as many as a dozen different commands. Dolphins are known to have a high intelligence and communicate amongst themselves with a whole range of sounds. Birds have territorial displays and mating calls that involve actions and sounds. One of the most sensitive means of communication between animals is in the use of pheromones. These are secreted out by females (butterflies, for instance) that can be detected by the males over enormous distances.

So communication in the animal world is something in which many senses—sounds, actions, scents and touch—all play their part. Even taste can be used, as we see in the passing of food between ants so that they can recognise their own nest. But these animal communications are not to be compared with the ability of man. Man uses visual methods in art, sculpture and dance. He uses sounds in music and drama. We use actions, from shaking hands to turning a cold shoulder, to convey our feelings. In most frequently we use language.

The spoken and written word are supreme as means of communication. Not only can we convey experience and knowledge, but abstract ideas and feelings; and in writing we have a permanence and an ability to overcome distance and time. What animal can convey in depth and with clarity the concept of love? How can dolphins discuss sublime truths involving abstract concepts like faith and hope? Only man can appreciate the purpose and love of God. For this reason God has communicated with man, and in the Bible we have the best expression that man can find of the characteristics of the Almighty Creator of all things.

Communication through language is not simple. First we have the many hundreds of different languages and dialects. The Bible tells us the origin of this diversity. In Genesis it is recorded that as men learnt how to build with bricks they became arrogant and decided to build a tower reaching up to heaven: '*Let us build us a city and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven*'.<sup>4</sup> This activity was stopped by God by confusing their language:

'Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth'.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Genesis 11. 4    <sup>5</sup>Genesis 11. 7, 8

The writer of this article is arguing that the God who is revealed in creation has made man able to communicate. He must, therefore, Himself be able to communicate. The Bible claims that this He has done through its pages—His Word.

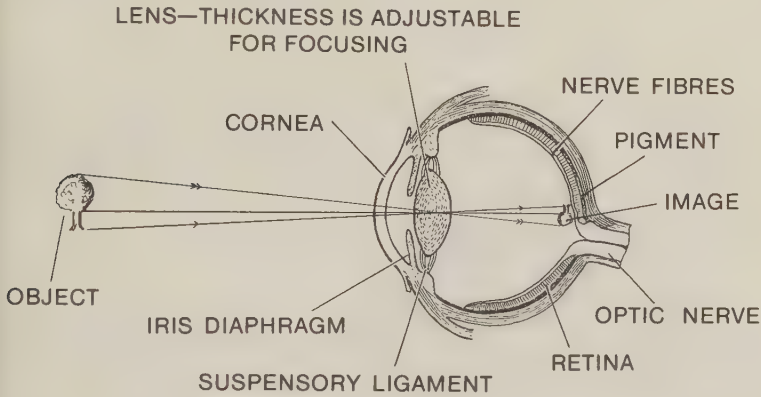


DIAGRAM OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE EYE

*'He that formed the eye shall he not see and he that made the ear, shall he not hear' Psalm 94. 9*

*'All scripture is given by inspiration (by the breathing in) of God and is profitable for . . . ' II Timothy 3. 16.*

One can deny its effectiveness. We learn other languages only with difficulty and only can effective communication be obtained in a foreign tongue. Even in our own language we have differences of vocabulary, differences of idiom and colloquialisms that have meaning only to our contemporaries. Communication is mainly superficial and misunderstandings often occur even between close friends. The problems we face in society with racialism and oppressed minorities are to a large extent caused by the isolation that results from poor communication.

To be able to understand messages from our fellow men is important. To be able to understand God's message is absolutely vital. How blessed we are to live in a world where the Bible can be read in nearly every language! In the Bible God, the all-wise Creator, explains to us, His humble creation, what His great purpose with the world is

all about. He offers us an opportunity to take part in it—an incredible act of love on His behalf.

To learn of God, then, we have to read the Bible. From it we learn not only that God exists, but that '*He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*'.<sup>6</sup> To understand the Bible one has to study it in depth. Only with study do the golden threads of God's purpose become clear, and the patterns and consistency of the message confirm our faith in its veracity.

The closest we can get to understanding God is by studying the characteristics of Jesus himself. Here we see a man who was truly '*the express image*' of His father.<sup>7</sup> His words, his actions, his commandments, all speak of the love of God towards us. The well-known words of John express the sublime truth that God is in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself:

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life'.<sup>8</sup>

To know Christ, who was '*one*' with the Father, is to know God. To become '*one*' with Christ is the hope of all true Christians, for Christ prayed '*That they* (his followers) *all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us*'.<sup>9</sup> This is true communion with God. It is a privilege not given to animals, but only men and women who approach God in faith and hope.

## MAN—A CREATIVE BEING

The other outstanding quality of man is his creativity. This, of course, can be seen in such things as communication satellites and optical fibre digital telephones; but creativity goes beyond communication.

A great deal of our lives seems to be taken up with a mindless routine that saps our will to think. Yet in all of us there is an individuality that separates us from the crowd. Whether we create temporary sandcastles on the beach or have hobbies that produce artifacts, most people are attracted to activities that allow their individuality and creativity to come to the fore. We see this in the paintings of children, or in the embellishment of our homes, no two of which are alike. We see it most clearly, perhaps, in great cultural achievements such as the music of Mozart, the sculpture of Rodin, the drama of Shakespeare or the physical theories of Einstein. The evidence of man's creativity is all around us. Not only do we see it in cathedrals and space rockets but in the hundreds of gadgets with which we surround ourselves.

Yet a comparison of our creations with those of God is a very sobering experience. A painting may be beautiful and evocative, but can it compare with an actual flower?

<sup>6</sup>Hebrews 11. 6    <sup>7</sup>Hebrews 1. 3    <sup>8</sup>John 3. 16    <sup>9</sup>John 17. 21



Consider the lilies of the field', Christ said,<sup>10</sup> if you want to understand the loving attention of God to His creation. We can make clocks that keep accurate time for years, but we try in vain to achieve the accuracy of the orbital motions of the planets. No sculpture compares with the beauty of the human frame. No clever machine or robot compares with the human organs in complexity or ability. Our creations are but shadows compared with God's great works.

## THE MIRACLE OF THE HUMAN KIDNEY

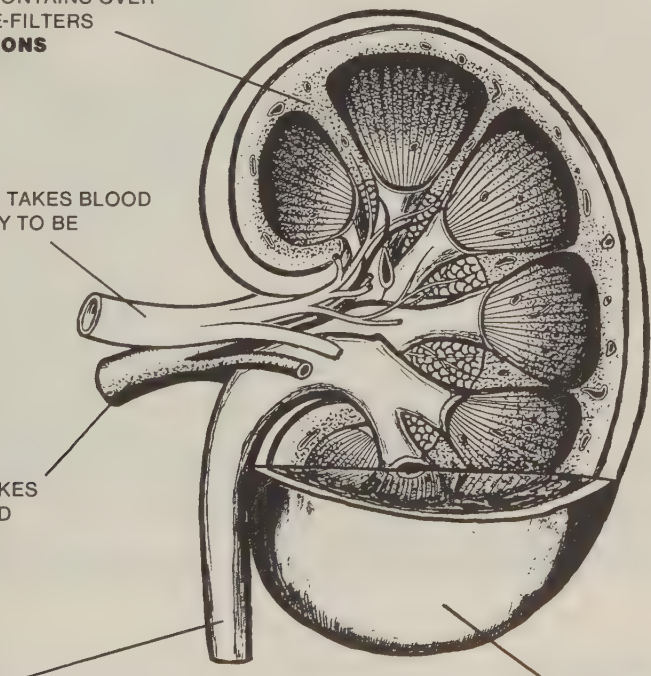
THE MAIN BODY OF THE KIDNEY, THE **CORTX**, CONTAINS OVER ONE MILLION TUBE-FILTERS CALLED **NEPHRONS**

**RENAL ARTERY** TAKES BLOOD TO THE KIDNEY TO BE FILTERED

**RENAL VEIN** TAKES FILTERED BLOOD BACK INTO CIRCULATION

**URETER** TAKES URINE TO THE BLADDER FOR STORAGE

A TOUGH FIBROUS COVER, THE **CAPSULE**, PROTECTS THE KIDNEY



The kidneys have two functions—to remove waste products from the blood and to regulate the amount of salt and liquid in the body. There are 1¼ million microscopic tubes which act as filters in each kidney. About two pints of blood pass through the kidneys every minute. No man-made 'kidney machine' is so compact or so efficient.

One of the most satisfying hobbies or crafts is pottery. To take some simple clay and fashion it into a vessel, then to fire it in an oven and glaze it and see a finished product that is both useful and beautiful is most satisfying. Paul uses the simile of the potter<sup>11</sup> to explain that just as a potter makes from one lump of clay pots that he rejects and pots that he keeps, so God made man from the dust of the earth and is testing him in the fire of experience. This is something we can all understand. Although God's love and wisdom are beyond our understanding yet the Bible effectively shows us God's purpose in a way we can understand.



*THE POTTER*  
(Interphoto—Hungary)

Perhaps the most creative thing we can do is to produce children. Parenthood is an experience in which we can share God's feelings for His children. Our children are brought up with care. We rejoice when they reflect our good points and despair when they copy bad ones. Does God feel the same? We go through their trials and sorrows; we share their joys and try to protect them from their own mistakes. We allow them freedoms as and when we feel they can cope with them. We chastise them for their wrongdoing. Is God like that? The training of children is a lengthy process. We do not expect immediate results or perfection, but we do expect obedience and we expect them to listen to us.

<sup>11</sup>*Romans 9, 20-23*

In this most creative experience we get a real insight into the character of God, our heavenly Father. He has given us life and he has given us instruction. He chastises us so that we may grow up right in his sight, as obedient children of God.<sup>12</sup> Surely it is reasonable that He should expect us to take notice of what He has said, to believe and to act upon it.

In his teaching about the world to come, Jesus shows us that the children of God will become like the angels to die no more. Human relationships will no longer be necessary, for Jesus said:

'The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels: and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.'<sup>13</sup>

The Bible speaks of this as a new creation, vastly superior to the creation of which we are now a part. God's creative power is soon to be shown again in the earth, as the prophet Isaiah tells us.<sup>14</sup>

At the same time communication will take on a new meaning, for men and women will then acknowledge their Creator and be instructed in the ways of righteousness.<sup>15</sup> The language problem, which is the cause of so much misunderstanding and miscommunication today, will then be solved:

'For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent'.<sup>16</sup>

We can conclude, then, that mankind now reflects in a measure, the creative power and communicative ability of Almighty God, in whose image we have been created. Our duty is to use these abilities to understand God's plan for the world, to grow up in the knowledge of Him, and to become associated with the new creation as adopted sons and daughters of God.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Hebrews 12. 7   <sup>13</sup> Luke 20. 34-36   <sup>14</sup> Isaiah 65. 17   <sup>15</sup> Isaiah 2. 2, 3   <sup>16</sup> Zephaniah 3. 9  
<sup>17</sup> John 3. 1-3



# God is there

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*There is a story about Napoleon.*

*One evening he heard his generals arguing. They were discussing the question, 'Does God exist?'*

*Some thought the answer was 'No'.*

*Interrupting the argument, and with a sweep of the hand toward the starlit sky, the Emperor, it is said, enquired, 'That's all very well, gentlemen, but who made these?'*

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THE WRITERS OF THE articles in this booklet have pointed out not only that Christian has faith in the existence of God but that there are good reasons for that faith. 'Blind faith' has no place in Bible teaching.

Both by teaching and example the Bible says, 'Look at the evidence. Think about it carefully. Draw the right conclusions—and then act on them'.

When Paul and Silas travelled in the first century spreading the message of the Gospel there was a riot in Thessalonica and the apostles were mobbed. They moved to Berea and it is recorded that

'The Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.'<sup>1</sup>

They examined the evidence and the result was that '*many of them believe*

<sup>1</sup>Acts 17. 11 (N.I.V.)

The first Christian martyr, Stephen, at his trial, reminded his accusers of the story of Israel.<sup>2</sup> It was evidence of the hand of God at work. In Old Testament times God declared of the Jews,

‘Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God’.<sup>3</sup>

The reason that we are asked to examine the miraculous history of Israel<sup>4</sup> is, as the prophet Isaiah explains, ‘*that ye may know and believe me*’.<sup>5</sup>

For the same reason we ask you to read and consider very carefully the arguments in this booklet—that you, too, may know and believe.

### BELIEF FOLLOWED BY ACTION

At Pentecost, after the resurrection of Jesus, Peter spoke to a great crowd about his Lord. The account in Acts says, ‘*They that gladly received his word were baptized: . . . and they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship*’.<sup>6</sup>

Having believed, their lives were influenced by their beliefs.

Paul wrote to believers at Rome and reminded them that before they became Christians they were ‘*servants of sin*’. Now they should be ‘*servants to God*’, trying to live their lives in a way that would please Him. This is one of the problems of belief. It brings responsibility—a responsibility to act on the belief. Perhaps this is why so many people shy away from the facts and will not even consider the evidence. If they do consider the evidence and look at what can be ‘*clearly seen*’, as the first writer in this booklet quoted, they ‘*are without excuse*’.

### CHOICE

We have a choice of considering the evidence or not. We can grasp at excuses or weigh the arguments. We have free will and can decide for ourselves what we want to do.

What we cannot choose is the result that may follow from the exercise of our choice.

‘The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord’.<sup>7</sup>

Acts 7    <sup>3</sup>Isaiah 43. 12  
This argument is dealt with very fully in the booklet ‘LIGHT on Israel’ which can be had free of request  
Isaiah 43. 10    <sup>6</sup>Acts 2. 41, 42    <sup>7</sup>Romans 6. 23

# Life—design or chance?

This is the title of a booklet which deals with a subject closely related to the topics discussed in this magazine. The booklet is number 5 in the series listed below. Any of these booklets—including the one on the origin of life—can be obtained without charge by writing to M. J. Walker, 15 Brentfield Road, Dartford, Kent, England DA1 1YJ. If you live in the British Isles you may write to M. J. Walker, FREEPOST, Dartford DA1 3BR and then no stamp is required.

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## *SPECIAL ISSUE ON - GOD IN CREATION*

*Contributors to this issue —*

*D.J. Evans, R. Griffiths, P.J. Southgate, M.J. Walker, and others.*

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The Christadelphians believe the Bible (Old and New Testaments) to be the wholly inspired and infallible Word of God.

Its principle theme is the setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth under the rulership of Jesus Christ.

LIGHT ON A NEW WORLD is devoted to promoting a better understanding of this true Christian hope.

The Secretary (see front of booklet) will be pleased to arrange for LIGHT to be posted, without charge, to any address on request.

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Letters should be addressed to the Correspondence Editor:  
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If a letter is intended for publication, please write on one side of the paper only.

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